provide for more powers to the elected members, enhancement of financial assistance to the Cantonment Boards, to liberalise FSI restrictions and to further liberalise land policy.

Training for Indian Team

300. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for taking urgent steps to prepare and train the Indian team for the Asian Games 1998 to be held at Jakarta; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Sports Authority of India have already held meetings with some of the National Federations and reviewed the progress in preparation of National teams for 1998 Asian Games to be held at Bangkok. Training and competition programmes have also been finalised and coaching camps for various disciplines are already in progress.

Review of the progress of the teams and the competition programmes with the remaining Federations is expected to be completed by March, 1997.

Opening of New Hospital

301. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to open All India Institute of Medical Science type hospital in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong was set up as an autonomous body with the main objective of *inter-alia* providing advanced and specialised medical care to the people of the entire North Eastern Region at super-speciality level in selected fields.

During Phase I of the project, it is envisaged to set up Interim Facilities for providing super-speciality services in Cardiology and Gastro-interology with a 30 bedded Hospital.

(c) Does not arise.

New National Population Policy

302. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a new National Population Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the details of the action plan, if any, laid down to implement the policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) On the basis of comments received from other Ministries/States on the preliminary draft National Population Policy prepared by an expert group, a Statement on the National Population Policy was drafted and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha in reply to the Starred Question No. 156 answered on 2nd December. 1996. This draft statement alongwith a draft Note for the Cabinet has been circulated among Ministries/Departments concerned for final comments before seeking the approval of the Cabinet.

AIDS Cases

303. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the year since when National AIDS Control Programme is being implemented in the country;

(b) the number of HIV cases detected in the country during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(c) the States from which such cases have been detected;

(d) the main sources of the transmission of HIV cases;

(e) the treatment provided to patients of this dreaded diseases in Eighth Five year plan;

(f) whether any specific scheme has been formulated to prevent the cases of AIDS;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any special cells have been set up by the Government for testing the cases of AIDS in the Hospitals; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) AIDS Control Programme has been